

Remarks

This is in response to the second substantive Office Action mailed June 27, 2008, which provided a new non-final rejection of claims 19, 21-23, 26-27, 30-33 and 36, and which withdrew claims 40-41. The Applicant's Attorney sincerely thanks the Examiner for his continued good faith diligence in the prosecution of this case, and believes that in view of the present response, the case is in proper condition for reconsideration and allowance.

. Independent claim 19 has been generally amended to now feature the recited bias force as operative to "*bring an innermost surface of a central mounting aperture of the disc into contact with an outer cylindrical surface of the hub.*" Independent claim 30 has been amended in substantially similar fashion. Support includes FIGS. 3 and 21 and in the specification at page 6, line 22 to page 7, line 5. Dependent claim 32 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. These amendments are proper and do not introduce new matter.

Withdrawal of Claims 40-41

The Applicant respectfully traverses the withdrawal of previously presented dependent claims 40 and 41, but notes that upon allowance of base claims 19 and 30, these claims will be entitled to consideration.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b), 103(a)

Claims 19, 26, 27, 30 and 36 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,421,199 to McKenzie et al. ("McKenzie '199"). Dependent claims 21-23 and 31-33

were rejected as obvious over McKenzie '199, alone or in view of U.S Patent No. 6,971,154 to Yoo et al. ("Yoo '154"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

McKenzie '199 at least fails to disclose a bias force as operative to "*bring an innermost surface of a central mounting aperture of the disc into contact with an outer cylindrical surface of the hub,*" as claimed by independent claim 19.

Instead, McKenzie '199 generally discloses to initially write servo tracks to a disc so as to be nominally concentric on the disc, to install the disc onto a spindle hub, and then apply a bias force to an outermost diameter of the disc to center the disc onto the hub during a balancing operation. See e.g., col. 5, lines 49-54; col. 6, lines 28-45; FIGS. 5 and 7-1, 7-2.

During both the writing and balancing steps, McKenzie '199 measures variation in the distance of the outermost diameter (OD) of the disc to a fixed reference, and operates to minimize this variation. See e.g., steps 310-316 in FIG. 5; steps 516-519 in FIG. 7-2. The skilled artisan would accordingly understand that the servo tracks are concentric with the disc, and the disc is concentric (not offset) in non-contacting relation with the central hub. The Applicant respectfully submits that this is the opposite of the claimed subject matter, which generally provides an eccentric track with respect to the disc and eccentric final position of the disc with respect to the hub.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19, and for the claims depending therefrom, are accordingly solicited. As McKenzie '199 is similarly deficient with regard to the subject matter of independent claim 30, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30, and for the claims depending therefrom, are also respectfully requested.

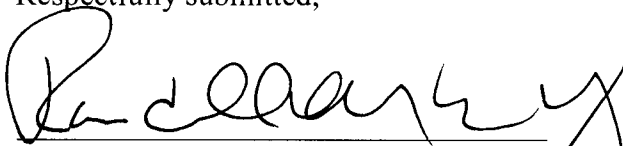
Conclusion

This is intended to be a complete response to the second substantive Office Action mailed June 27, 2008. The Applicant respectfully requests examination and allowance of the elected claims, as well as the non-elected claims upon allowance of the independent linking claims.

Should any questions arise concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the below signed attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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